



# HOTSHOTS... for the

## Gilbert Fire Department Volunteers

Volume 3, Issue 8

August 2010

### Kim's Corner

By Kim Yonda  
GFD Volunteer Coordinator

**I**t's here! Many of you may be feeling excited and maybe a little sad that summer vacation is over. It's the time of year when children go back to school, and at the same time we are entering the busiest half of the year for Volunteering. The next five months will provide many opportunities to get involved. Activities will range from several Volunteer opportunities, to trainings and meetings. It is going to be a fun, wild ride, and I hope you can join us on the adventure.



GFD photo

What an exciting time! Basic CERT Class #22 is preparing to start on August 3rd, and there are still a few days left to register. If you have a family member or friend who would like to get involved, please have them call 503-6357 to register. I look forward to seeing this class graduate, and to having its new members join our CERT Team. Currently we have 106 active CERT Members!

Also starting this fall will be the seventh class for Community Assistance. If you know someone who is at least 18 years old and would like to get involved with this program, please have him or her contact me at [kim.yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov](mailto:kim.yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov). Applications are currently being accepted, and interview panels will take place in August and September.

September is National Disaster Preparedness Month. We are busy planning how to best educate the community about being prepared for a disaster. I encourage each of you to have a Family Communications Plan in place. It is important for each member of your family to know how to contact the others. As you know, families may not all be together when a disaster happens. Another thing to plan is your meeting place; you should have two, one in your neighborhood, and one outside of it. Please take a moment to refer to the Family Communication Plan on the website [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

As you may know our editors and writers will be enjoying a vacation in August. Therefore, the next HotShots edition will arrive in October.

Thank you for making a difference.

# FROM THE CHAPLAIN

BY PASTOR RICK OLLER  
"B" SHIFT CHAPLAIN

*Text messaging. Twitter. E-mail. Facebook. Skype. Cell phones. Snail mail. Acronyms. All are forms of communication, many that we may use everyday. With all of the various forms of communication one would think that lack of communication, or miscommunication, would be eliminated. However, regrettably, lack of communication still rates as one of the biggest problems in interpersonal relationships.*

I am reminded of an amusing story of miscommunication:

A rather old fashioned lady was planning a couple of week's vacation in Florida. She also was quite delicate, and elegant with her language. She wrote a letter to a particular campground and asked for reservations. She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped but didn't know quite how to ask about the toilet facilities. She just couldn't bring herself to write the word toilet in her letter. After much deliberation, she finally came up with the old fashioned term "Bathroom Commode," but when she wrote that down, she still thought she was being too forward. So she started all over again; rewrote the entire letter and referred to the "Bathroom Commode" simply as the "B.C." Does the campground have its own "B.C.?" is what she actually wrote.

Well, the campground owner wasn't old fashioned at all, and when he got the letter, he couldn't figure out what the lady was talking about. That "B.C." really stumped him. After worrying about it for several days, he showed the letter to other campers, but they couldn't figure out what the lady meant either. The campground owner finally came to the conclusion that the lady must be asking about the location of the local Baptist Church. So he sat down and wrote the following reply:

"Dear Madam: I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take the pleasure of informing you that the "B.C." is located nine miles north of the camp site and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along, and make a day of it..... They usually arrive early and stay late. The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats..... They plan to hold the supper in the middle of the "B.C." so everyone can watch and talk about this great event..... I would like to say it pains me very much not to be able to go more regularly, but it is surely not for lack of desire on my part.... As we grow older, it seems to be more and more of an effort, particularly in cold weather..... If you decide to come down to the campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go...sit with you...and introduce you to all the other folks..... This is really a very friendly community...

How is your communication with God and others? Communication is an art we must continually practice for effectiveness.

# Reviewing CERT

By Johnna Switzer  
GFD Volunteer

**T**he summer season is in full swing, and fires are becoming more common in Gilbert because of BBQ grills, lightening, natural combustion, etc. This would be a great time to review your family disaster plan and replace/update your disaster supply kit. This month's quiz focuses on home and family.

1. CERTs prepare themselves and their families by:
  - Identifying and reducing potential hazards in the home and work place
  - Developing a family disaster plan, and
    - a. notifying authorities about known hazards.
    - b. assembling a disaster supply kit.
    - c. restricting access to hazardous areas.
    - d. ensuring evacuation routes are clear.
2. Which of the following utilities, when turned off during an emergency, must be restored only by a trained technician?
  - a. Natural gas
  - b. Electricity
  - c. Water supply
  - d. Telephone service
3. When attempting to suppress a fire, CERTs should:
  - a. Work with a buddy and backup team.
  - b. Open all doors as they leave the area.
  - c. Plan one escape route from the fire area.
  - d. Feel heat before using an extinguisher.

## You've Been Spotted

**Thank you for doing something great!**

Pastor Rick Oller  
Jeff East  
Joe Bakas



Rick Harston  
Dan Zehring  
David Rodriquez

**You are appreciated!**



## Driven to Distraction

Driving is serious business. Yet few experienced drivers give much thought to their actions when they are driving. Most drive on "automatic pilot," especially when they drive the same roads every day.

When we're so comfortable with driving that we don't give it much conscious thought, we can easily be tempted to also do other things. These can include: eating, drinking a non-alcoholic beverage, (because we know that all 50 states have laws against drinking alcoholic beverages and driving) adjusting the radio, locating and playing a CD, finding just the right tune on our iPods, talking on the phone, and even reading and sending text messages.



As of July 1, thirty states have banned texting while driving. Although in most states it's a "ticketable" offense only in conjunction with another offense such as an accident, or speeding.

Studies have shown that texting while driving is even more dangerous than driving drunk. *Car & Driver* studied the distance required to stop from 35 mph. They compared a drunk driver and a driver who was sending a text message. After being told to stop, the drunk driver traveled four more feet. The texting driver traveled 25 feet before stopping. Having diverted attention is more dangerous than impairment.

Real-world drivers were video recorded for an 18 month study at Virginia Tech. Researchers found that drivers who were involved in crashes while using their phones had been staring at the phones, not the road, for a period of just five seconds. Driving on the highway at 70 mph, a vehicle would travel 29 car lengths in five seconds.

Texting while driving increases the risk of being involved in an accident by 23 times. Think about it: Is any message worth taking that risk?

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## A Little Laugh

A person calls 911 and says, "I have just had my front yard redesigned, and now I have a beautiful flower bed, a new fish pond, a fountain, and a new sculpture." "Well, good," the firefighter says, "but what does that have to do with the fire department?" "Well," the man answers, "the house next door to me is on fire and I don't want you going through it"

# Emergency Notification Systems

By Sheri Gibbons

Emergency Management Coordinator

The ability to provide the public with effective and timely warnings about an emergency is essential to safety. Therefore, Emergency Notification Systems (EAS) are an important asset to emergency management and public safety officials. Current information about the impact of a disaster or notification about actions that should be taken in response to an incident are examples of messages that could be delivered. In an effort to make our Volunteers more familiar with our local notification capabilities, I will be providing a series of articles about local and regional Emergency Notification Systems.

The EAS system is an all hazard alert and warning system that provides warnings throughout the state via television, radio, cable TV, and the Phoenix National Weather Service Weather Radios.

There are 3 primary stations serving Maricopa County for this system:

Radio Station KTAR 92.3 MHz FM and 620 kHz AM

Radio Station KJZZ 91.5 MHz FM

Radio Station KFYI 550 kHz AM

Commercial radio and TV broadcasting stations disseminate the notifications immediately. It is very important to pay close attention to EAS messaging and follow any instructions that may be provided. The local media voluntarily translates all EAS messages into Spanish. Messages are also received by Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD).

The system is routinely tested on both radio and television. It is initiated by a unique tone, followed by the test message. Long time residents of Arizona may know this system by its previous name. It was broadcast for many years with the test message and therefore became familiar to many. If you know the EAS's previous name, please send an email to [sheri.gibbons@gilbertaz.gov](mailto:sheri.gibbons@gilbertaz.gov). The first two Volunteers who provide the correct answer will receive a special token of appreciation for your service to the Gilbert Fire Department! I will have more information about emergency notification systems in the next edition of HotShots.



We have several classes and events taking place over the next few months. We would like to host a Welcoming Table at each one of these activities. (please note this request is separate from the Basic CERT Welcoming Table) Volunteers would welcome participants, assist with check in and pass out materials. There are a variety of dates and times available to choose from. If you have a magnetic personality and enjoy greeting others this is the Volunteer opportunity for you! Please email Kim if you are interested.

# Welcome

New GFD Volunteers

Debra Gray Tim Swanson



## How to Survive a Poisonous Bite

Remember that snakes coil themselves up before they strike. They keep half of their bodies on the ground, and attack with about half of the rest of their length. If you are unfortunate enough to be bitten by a snake or by some other poisonous critter, do NOT attempt to suck out the venom! You do not want it in your mouth because from there it could enter your bloodstream through a cut or scratch. First immobilize the area of your body that is bitten, and keep it lower than your heart. Of course get medical help as soon as you can, but while you wait wrap a bandage two to four inches immediately above the bite. This will help to slow the venom.

## Applause! Applause! Applause!

A round of applause for **David Rodriquez** who is now a paid on call Firefighter EMT with the Forest Lakes Fire District.

# HOTSTUFF

## AUGUST

3	Citizen Corps Operations Team	6:30 -8:00 PM	Room 6	Δ
5	COM 251 Report Writing	6:00 -8:00 PM	Room 6	CA
12	Ethics, Cultural Diversity & Harassment	6:00 -9:00 PM	Room 6	Δ
14	Tactical Communications	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Amphitheater	CERT
23	IS 800	6:00 -10:00 PM	Room 6	Δ
24	Training Team	3:00 -4:30 PM	Room 2	Δ
25	IS 100	6:00 -10:00 PM	Room 6	Δ
28	Specialties Team	10:00 -11:30 AM	Room 1	Δ

## SEPTEMBER

3	IS 700	6:00 -10:00 PM	Room 6	Δ
8	COM 251 Meeting	6:00 -8:00 PM	Room 6	CA
13	Emergency Preparedness for Families	6:00 -7:30 PM	Amphitheater	Community
21	Citizen Corps Training Team	3:00 -4:30 PM	Room 2	Δ
21	Emergency Preparedness Evening	6:00 -9:30 PM	Amphitheater	Community

## Plan Ahead

A Very Special Class for all CERT, FC, and VIPS Volunteers

### ***Volunteering as an Emergency Worker and Emergency Support Functions***

October 23	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
October 26	6:00 -9:00 PM

Pick the time that is best for you

Δ Supplemental Training classes are open to CERT, FC, and VIPS Volunteers.  
Register with Kim Yonda @ 480-503-6325 or [kim.yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov](mailto:kim.yonda-lead@gilbertaz.gov)

*An up to the minute CERT/FC training calendar will be found at*  
<http://www.ci.gilbert.az.us/fire/volunteers.cfm>